

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
San Benito County Public Works Department
San Benito County, California
Old Hernandez Road Low Water Crossing Repair Project
FEMA-1203-DR-CA, DSR #95898

The San Benito County Public Works Department has applied through the California Office of Emergency Services to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which has been incorporated into the Department of Homeland Security, for Public Assistance Program funding to repair a road crossing of the San Benito River, damaged during winter storms in 1998. Components of the Proposed Action include the replacement of the existing box culvert with a single prefabricated arched culvert with headwalls, armoring the roadway embankment with an articulated concrete mat, and armoring the downstream side of the roadway embankment with a riprap blanket. A temporary river crossing would be installed for through traffic on Old Hernandez Road. Avoidance and minimization measures approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service would be employed to minimize impacts to protected species that may occur in or near the project area. All construction activities would occur between May 15 and October 15.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) to evaluate the impacts of the proposed action on the human environment. The Supplemental Environmental Assessment, tiers from the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Typical Recurring Actions Resulting from Flood Disasters in California (April 16, 1998) as Proposed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The SEA for the Old Hernandez Road Low Water Crossing Repair Project and the PEA are available online at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm> and <http://www.fema.gov/regions/ix/env/nhpapa.shtm>, respectively.

An initial public notice has been circulated explaining reasons for siting the project in the floodplain, pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management). This Finding of No Significant Impact serves as the final notice for Executive Order 11988 compliance.

Based upon the conditions and the information contained in the PEA and the SEA for the Old Hernandez Road Low Water Crossing Repair Project (February 2004), and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared, based on the fact that there will be no long-term adverse impacts to the natural environment resulting from the proposed action.

For more information, questions, or comments, contact Sandro Amaglio, Region IX Environmental Officer, at (510) 627-7027. No action will be allowed to occur until 15 days after publication of this Finding of No Significant Impact.